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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

2 August 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Huntington Beach - Man who Texted Selfie from US Capitol Riot Arrested After Tip to FBI

(U) Glenn Allen Brooks, a Huntington Beach remodeling firm owner, has been arrested in connection with the 6 January Capitol riot after he texted a selfie of himself at the insurrection to members of his church group. A member of Brooks' prayer group tipped federal authorities on 30 January after he shared a picture he took of himself standing in a hallway amidst a crowd that had forced its way into the Capitol. Brooks is seen with a white beard and red jacket in the photo, and is wearing a beanie decorated with an American flag. Brooks was accused of unlawful entry and disorderly conduct on restricted grounds in a criminal complaint filed Tuesday, 27 July.

SOURCE: 30 July 2021, The OC Register

(U) Ontario – Three Arrested After Road Rage Brawl on California Freeway Injures Officer

(U) Three people were arrested after a crash sparked a brawl on the 60 Freeway during rush-hour traffic, along with an altercation between handcuffed suspects and Ontario police officers that left an officer injured. Police were alerted to a fight between several people just after 5 PM on the eastbound 60 Freeway. Responding officers contacted the involved people and found a person with moderate injuries from the assault who was later taken to a hospital. During the investigation, three of the suspects allegedly became verbally and physically combative toward the officers. A video appears to show handcuffed suspects fighting among each other, resisting arrest, and getting into physical altercations with the officers. An officer in the video appears to tackle two of the handcuffed suspects to the ground. SOURCE: 30 July 2021, East Bay Times

(U) Oroville - California Fire Investigators Arrest Man on Suspicion of Starting 20 July Fire

(U) Cal Fire investigators arrested Anthony Trent Walker, 39, of Oroville and believe he was responsible for starting a 20 July wildfire that prompted evacuations in portions of Thermalito. Walker was booked into the jail on suspicion of unlawfully causing a fire that causes great bodily injury, unlawfully causing a fire to wildland and arson during a declared state of emergency. Investigators also allege Walker had a "substantial" amount of methamphetamine and heroin in his possession. The fire started on 14th Street and Grand Avenue in Oroville before it burned more than 11 acres and briefly forced residents to evacuate the area. No structures were damaged or destroyed by the flames, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office lifted most of the evacuation orders by the early afternoon.

SOURCE: 1 August 2021, Mercury News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Russian SolarWinds Hackers Broke into Email Accounts at US Attorney Offices

(U) Washington DC – The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently revealed that Russian hackers behind the massive SolarWinds cyber-espionage campaign broke into the email accounts of some of the most prominent US federal prosecutors' offices between from 7 May to 27 December 2020. The department said 80% of Microsoft email accounts used by employees in the four US attorney offices in New York were breached. The list of affected district attorneys included high-profile offices in Los Angeles, Miami,

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Washington, and the eastern district of Virginia. The southern and eastern districts of New York, where large numbers of staff were hit, handle some of the most prominent prosecutions in the country. The department has currently identified 27 offices which had at least one employee email account compromised. A former federal prosecutor shared that office emails frequently contain sensitive information including case strategy discussions and names of confidential informants. SOURCE: 31 July 2021, The Guardian

(U) Georgia – Street Gang Members Trafficked and Drugged a Minor to Pay Gang Dues

(U) Albany – A grand jury has indicted eight men in Doughtery County on charges of gang activity and trafficking a minor for sex. All eight suspects are accused of being members of the Inglewood Family Gangster Bloods, also known as the Inglewood Family Gang and The Family. The arrests came after an investigation into allegations that the eight known gang members held a minor against their will and placed them into sexual servitude for money to pay their street gang's dues and support other members. Law enforcement also indicated that the victim was drugged, and physically and sexually assaulted while they were being trafficked. If found guilty, some of the suspects in the indictment could serve up to life-in-prison.

SOURCE: 30 July 2021, FOX5 Atlanta

(U) New York – At Least Ten People Injured in a Mass Shooting

(U) New York City – At least 10 people, ages 19-72, were injured in a mass shooting in New York City late Saturday evening. The individuals are being related in local hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries. A preliminary report shows two males approached a large crowd, firing numerous shots before jumping on two scooters driven by two other males and fleeing the scene. Police are now searching for the four individuals they suspect are behind the shooting. They are described as males who were wearing masks and hooded sweatshirts. Police believe three of the ten injured are Trinitarios gang members and the other seven victims were not intentional targets.

SOURCE: 1 August 2021, CNN

(U) Tennessee – Prosecutors will Retry Former University of Tennessee Professor in Court

(U) Knoxville – Federal prosecutors signaled they will retry a former University of Tennessee (UT) associate professor accused of failing to disclose his ties to a China institution while working on a NASA contract. US District Court Judge Thomas Varlan in Knoxville gave the government until Friday to state its plans in Anming Hu's case. Hu's first trial in Knoxville ended 16 June in a hung jury. The panel of East Tennesseans told Varlan they simply could not agree on a verdict. Hu was a respected researcher and associate professor in UT's Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering. A grand jury indicted him on three counts of wire fraud and three counts of making false statements. SOURCE: 30 July 2021, WBIR

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Police Charge Man Over Fake Video of Plot to Overthrow the Government

(U) Canberra – Australian police charged a man with impersonating a police officer, following an investigation into a fake video that purported to show a senior official plotting to overthrow the government. In the video widely shared on social media, a man claiming to be Australian Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw is heard discussing a secret police unit and how Australia's government could be "dissolved." Police said Kershaw was not the individual in the video and investigations led to the arrest of a man in Western Australia who had been in contact with other anti-government groups, according to authorities. The man also attempted to source police badges and stamps. SOURCE: 2 August 2021, KFGO

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(U) Italy - Hackers Shut Down System for Booking COVID-19 Shots

(U) Milan – Hackers have attacked and shut down the IT systems of the company that manages COVID-19 vaccination appointments for the Lazio region surrounding Rome, the regional government said on Sunday. The attack on the region's database has deactivated the entire system and will likely delay the area's ability to inoculate its people. Prosecutors are currently investigating the perpetrator behind the attack. The attack comes right after Italy announced that citizens will be required to demonstrate proof of vaccination from COVID-19 in order to participate in certain activities.

SOURCE: 1 August 2021, Reuters

(U) United Arab Emirates – Leaders Blame Iran for Attack on Israel-Linked Oil Tanker

(U) Dubai – The United States and the United Kingdom joined Israel in alleging Iran carried out a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea. The strike on the ship, Mercer Street, marks the first-known fatal attack after years of assaults on commercial shipping in the region linked to tensions with Iran over its tattered nuclear deal. While no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, Iran and its militia allies have used so-called "suicide" drones in attacks previously, which crash into targets and detonate their explosive payloads. Israel, the United Kingdom, and the responding US Navy have yet to show physical evidence from the strike or offer intelligence information on why they blame Tehran. The Mercer Street, owned by Japan's Taihei Kaiun Co., is managed by London-based Zodiac Maritime, part of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Group.

SOURCE: 1 August 2021, AP News

(U) United Kingdom – Teenager Sentenced for Far-right Terrorism Offenses

(U) Gloucestershire – A 17-year-old from Gloucestershire, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was arrested by counterterrorism police in December 2019 after police found concerning photos and documents on his electronic devices. In addition to detailed guides explaining ways to kill people, police also found images of the boy performing Nazi salutes and memes of mass killers. The boy admitted to 11 counts of collecting material of use to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism contrary to section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The judge sentenced the teenager to a 12-month referral order, including a program of rehabilitation.

SOURCE: 30 July 2021, BBC

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
- (U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.